

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 26, 1838.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. TIPTON submitted the following

REPORT :

[To accompany Senate bill No. 310.]

*The Committee on Roads and Canals, to whom was referred the "bill for the benefit of the Selma and Tennessee Railroad Company," report :*

That, from a full consideration of the subject, it has been deemed expedient, in cases where the face of the country is to be improved by means of railroads and canals, and where the public lands will acquire an enhanced value from their location, to grant to the companies by whose exertions and means those objects are effected, a participation in the advantages resulting from them. Indeed, it appears but just that the Government should share with them the increased receipts from the lands growing out of their acts.

To effect this object, there appears no course better calculated, than to give the companies a pre-emption right to a portion of the lands whose value will be increased, securing a fair participation on the part of the Government, by allowing a selection, within a specific time, and limited bounds, under the direction of the proper officer ; and securing the interests of actual settlers who may have occupied and improved lands previous to the location of the road, &c. At the same time, it appears to be the duty of the Government to attach certain conditions to secure the completion of such works, and the privilege and right to transport thereon, at all times, such objects as the public service may require.

As these objects appear to be well secured by the bill referred to the committee, it is reported to the Senate, without amendment.

Blair & Rives, printers.

